

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, and 12-15 in "clean" format, as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit for an injection molding machine for processing plastics materials and other plasticizable masses, comprising:

- a stationary mold carrier,
- a moveable mold carrier which has between itself and the stationary mold carrier a mold tenting space to accommodate injection molds of variable height, measured in a closing direction,
- a drive to move the moveable mold carrier in the closing direction towards the stationary mold carrier and away from the stationary mold carrier, which drive has at least two parts operationally connected to one another, of which one part is supported on a support element, and the other part is connected to the moveable mold carrier,
- guide elements which guide the moveable mold carrier during its movement in the closing direction, having at least one portion,
- a device for variably fixing the spacing between the stationary mold carrier and the moveable mold carrier measured with the injection mold closed and assuming a movement path of the moveable mold carrier unaltered in relation to a state before alteration of the spacing, which device enters operational connection with the portion of the guide elements to fix the spacing,
- a fixing device allocated to the moveable mold carrier which, on actuation, fixes the moveable mold carrier in its respective position,
- wherein when the fixing device is actuated and the device for variably fixing the spacing is out of operational connection, the drive alters the spacing by displacing the device for variably fixing the spacing along the portion of the guide elements,
- wherein one of the two parts of the drive extends as a linear movement means for the moveable mold carrier in a linear manner in the closing direction even during the closing movement.

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3. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, wherein the drive is a hydraulic drive and the parts of the drive are the cylinder and a piston rod of a hydraulic piston-cylinder unit.

5. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, wherein variably fixing the spacing and of the fixing device for mold height adjustment includes alternate actuation of the device.

6. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, wherein the device for variably fixing the spacing is a clamping device and the device for fixing the spacing enters positive operational connection with the portion of the guide elements.

7. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 6, wherein the clamping device has a first collet chuck which is disposed coaxially to the guide element in the region of the portion of the guide elements and can be transferred with the portion of the guide elements into positive operational connection free from play.

8. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 7, wherein the first collet chuck has a conical region that is in hydraulic operational connection with a cone ring connected to an annular piston and under the force of resilient means, the annular piston being axially moveable to a limited extent along the guide element.

10. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 6, wherein the clamping device, to form a positive operational connection with the portion of the guide elements has at least one nut which is operationally connected to a thread of said portion.

12. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 11, wherein the fixing device has a second collet chuck which is disposed coaxially to one of the guide elements and is fixed on the moveable mold carrier.

13. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 12, wherein the second collet chuck has a conical region and wherein a second hydraulically actuated annular piston with a conical portion effects the clamping with the conical region when hydraulic pressure is applied.

14. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 3, wherein the guide elements are the piston rod of the drive, which rod comes into operational connection with the device for variably fixing via the portion of the guide elements.

15. (Twice Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, wherein there is hinged to the stationary mold carrier a force transmission element, at the opposite end of which, associated with the moveable mold carrier, is disposed the device for variably fixing which co-operates with the portion of the guide elements.

Please add claim 16, as follows:

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16. (Newly Added) Mold-closing unit according to claim 13, the second annular piston being able to be reset via an additional resilient element.